

November 10, 2018

Southern Regional Education Board 592 10th St. N.W. Atlanta, GA 30318 Phone: (404) 875-9211 Fax: (404) 872-1477 sreb.org

To Whom it May Concern:

It is with great enthusiasm that I write on behalf of Mr. Mark O'Dell, dedicated teacher and owner of ESCAR, a superior Simulated Workplace Career Technical Program, to encourage consideration of his career pathway program for Advance CTE's 2019 Excellence in Action Award.

I have had the opportunity to observe high-quality teaching and learning in action in his Simulated Workplace, with motivated, engaged construction students at the Nicholas County Career Center (NCCC) in Craigsville, West Virginia. Mr. O'Dell has created a professional environment where students tackle challenging assignments and have a keen focus on producing quality work, driven by customer satisfaction and personal growth as aspiring industry leaders.

One of the most compelling efforts that exemplifies the efforts of Mr. O'Dell and his students resulted from a devasting flood during the summer of 2016. Mr. O'Dell harnessed the emotional investment of his students and community partners to create a beautiful tiny home to donate to flood victims in partnership with the West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) and several business partners. His company/program took the lead role in serving a devasted community in an almost-unheard time frame of six weeks. Students were challenged technically, and expected to become part of a professional network, serving a serious need in their community. You could 'feel' the pride from these students when they presented their completed home at a Governor's ceremony and were able to share their efforts with community members and workforce stakeholders across the state. The ESCAR Company/Program is regarded highly by the West Virginia Office of Career and Technical Education (CTE).

Mr. O'Dell facilitates high-quality, effective instruction to promote his students beyond secondary readiness, and has cultivated a learning environment that not only reflects industry practices such as 6S (lean manufacturing productivity practices) and peer management roles, but also understands the value of empowering his students through authentic responsibilities in working with community partners on authentic needs. Evidence of this includes a rich partnership with the Watago State Park in Pocahontas County, whereby students assist in rebuilding docks and tables and handle all aspects of the problem-solving process and product development. Recently, their company has developed a partnership with a private business to create an economic win-win for their community to provide and promote high-quality rental lodging for a tourist area. Students excel through high expectations to fill a need and promote healthy economic investment. I have also had the privilege of working with Mr. O'Dell in the context of continuous improvement for the NCCC and can attest to his commitment to the organization and his team of colleagues—he is a selfless professional, contributing time, effort and advocacy to promote the value of CTE.

Thank you for the opportunity to share support of Mr. O'Dell for consideration as an Excellence in Action exemplary program and as an impressive representative for Advance CTE. Please let me know if I can provide additional information and thank you for the advocacy, leadership, and promotion of career technical education Advance CTE provides!

Sincerely.

Kathleen McNally, Ph.D.

School Improvement Specialist Southern Regional Education Board

Kath M.M.M.

Mountain Lake Campground and Cabins 1898 Summersville Airport Rd. Summersville, WV 26651 www.mountainlakecampground.com 304-872-6222 877-686-6222

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you to voice my support for Mark O'Dell, the Carpentry Teacher at the Nicholas County Career/Technical Center, as it pertains to the consideration for the Advanced CTE's 2019 Excellence in Action Award. Mr. O'Dell and his students have partnered with me and my business, Mountain Lake Campground & Cabins, to build rental cabins and tiny homes for our guests to enjoy as a lodging option when they vacation with us on Summersville Lake. Thus far, we have all been extremely impressed with the commitment to the project, as well as with the quality of work the program is producing. Additionally, we are thrilled to be working alongside the Carpentry program in this venture that will bring positive economic impact to the community through supporting our local business as well as the many other local businesses that benefit from the presence of our transient and seasonal guests from all over the East/Northeast United States.

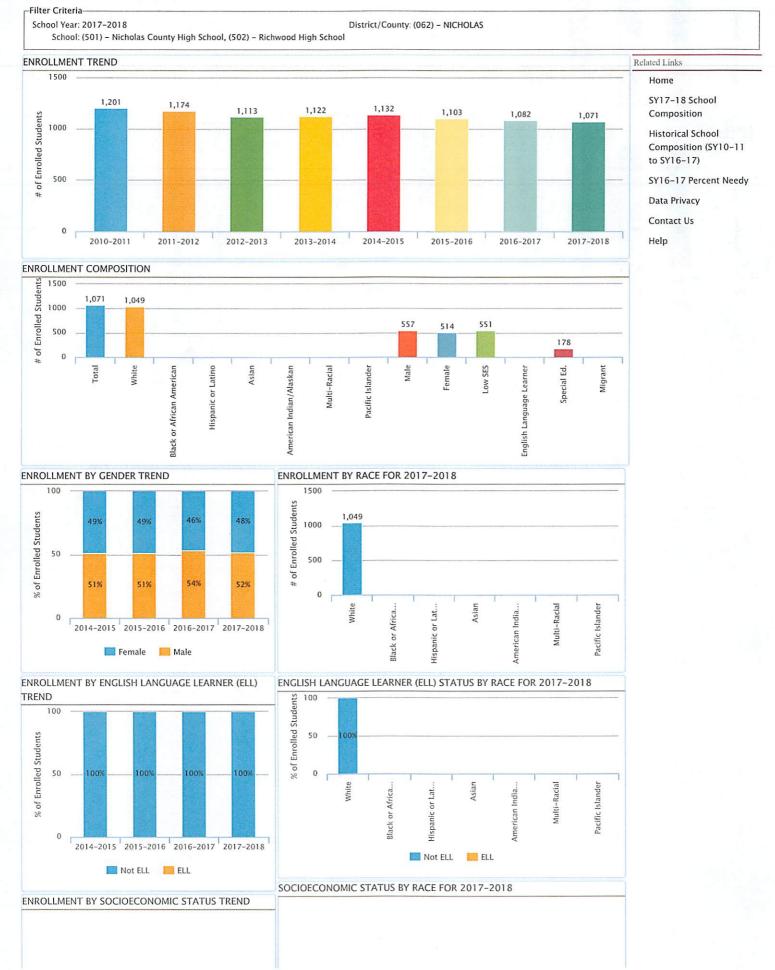
The work ethic and enthusiasm about this project illustrate a local and multigenerational commitment that perfectly represents the spirit of this award. The program would be an exemplary choice and I am proud to be among those advocating for them to receive this honor. We've been privileged to work with the Carpentry program and Mr. O'Dell and are deeply grateful to pledge support for this award.

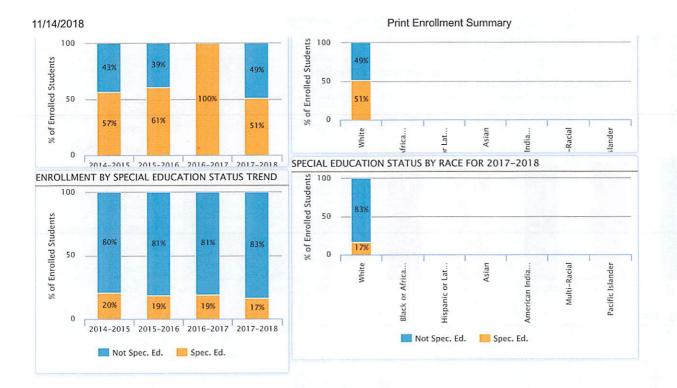
Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

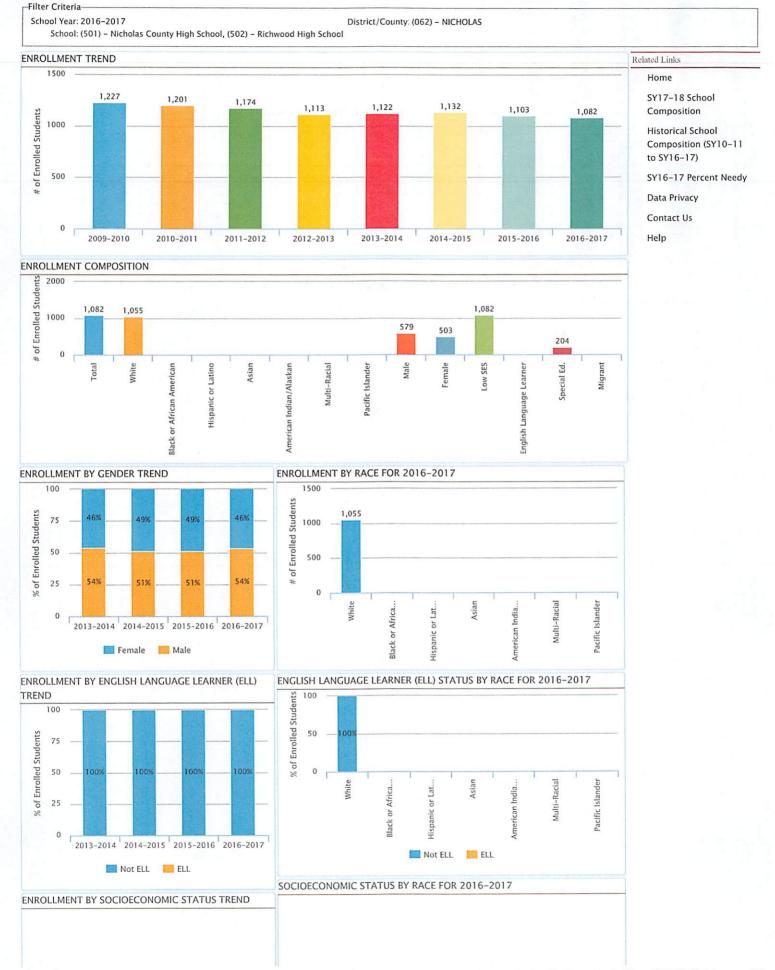
Susan James Owner, Mountain Lake Campground & Cabins

ENROLLMENT SUMMARY

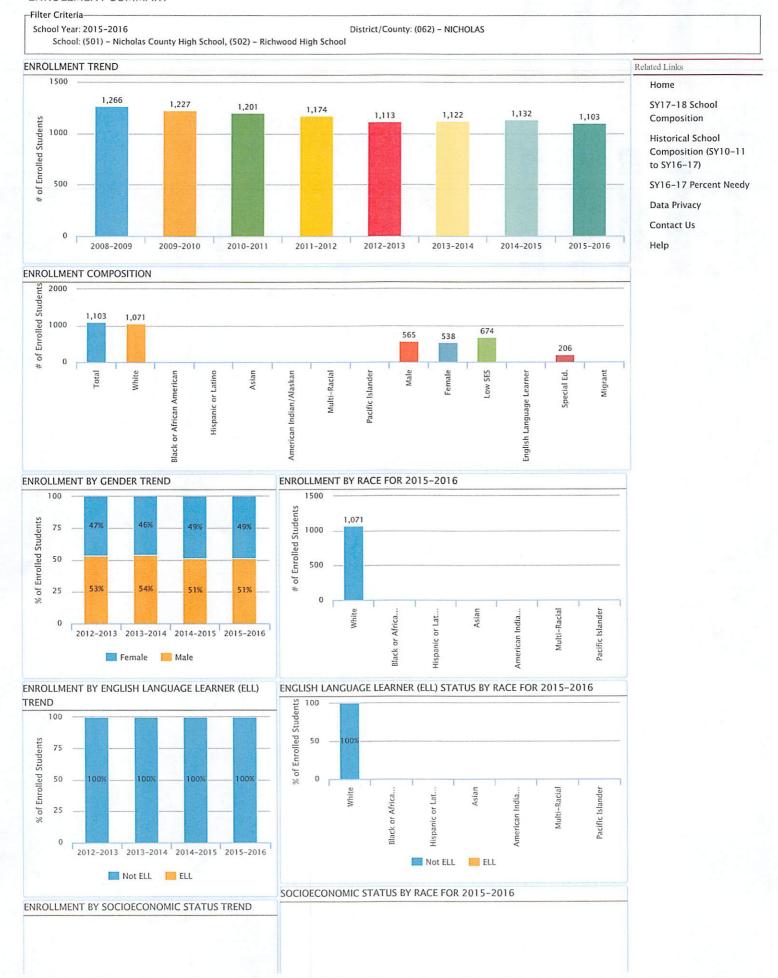


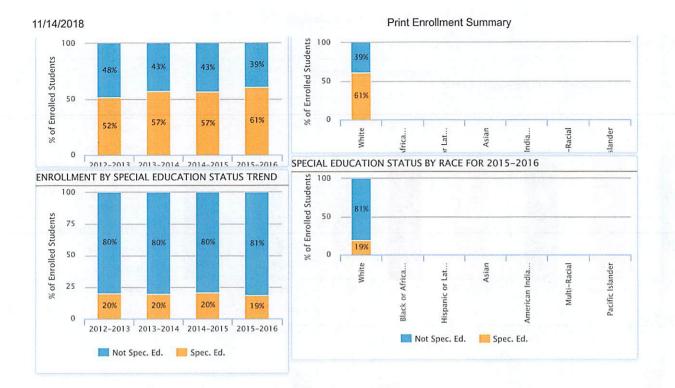


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Nicholas County Career and Technical Center Videos

Tiny Home Video (if link doesn't work, please search Big Hearts, Tiny Homes NCCTC on YouTube) https://youtu.be/SSIEeTwrpLA

State Parks Picnic Table Video https://youtu.be/bXid XSx41k













